Karen Nicol

Karen Nicol is a mixed-media and embroidery artist and designer from Britain. Based in London, she is now a honorary fellow at the RCA, and has been a visiting professor for twenty years. She was made Royal Designer for Industry by the RSA in 2015 and has exhibited her work in solo shows and fairs accross the world.

Since 2010 Karen has worked as an artist, making her embroidered and sculptured animals, specially created creatures with bespoke, haute couture materials ranging from Napoleonic polar bears to jewel encrusted deer and fringed and sequined zebras. Most of the materials she uses come from car boots and flea markets, and she uses a 50-year-old Singer sewing machine. As she has worked with so many creative minds throughout the years, on commissions and collaborations with the likes of Clements Ribeiro who asked for a "Frida Kahlo meets Singapore whorehouse" collection, she truly lets her imagination run wild.

Karen Nicol's mother and sister were both embroiderers, and even though Karen wanted to study Fine Arts, she found that nothing beat the diversity of textiles and went to the Royal College of Arts for a Masters in embroidery. For many years she has created fashion textiles for prestigious fashion brands, from Alexander McQueen to Chanel and Givenchy and has counted clients such as the King of Qatar or the Pope himself!

2021
AAF New York Fall
AAF Bruxelles

2019
Interiors design collections for Katharine Pooley
Design collection for Saga Furs, Denmark
Upholstered seating collaboration with Lee Lapthorne for Shakespeare centre, Stratford
Interiors collaboration with Sandra Murray MBE
Wedding dress with Giles Deacon
Wedding dress commission Eleanor Hill
Kimono designed and embroidered for the film ‘Louis Wain'
Works selected for exhibition at i.d.e.a Museum, Arizona, USA
Artist in Residence, De Montfort University, UK

2018
Art Market Hamptons
AAF New York
2 fashion pieces for Schiaparelli Paris
Book cover design for anniversary edition of Little Women
Design collection for Rare Threads
Fashion Pieces for Bruce Oldfield
Interior pieces for Pottery Barn, USA
Fashion piece for Sandra Murray MBE
Designs for Jasper Conran
Jacket for film ‘All is True'
Bespoke embroidered napkins for Estee Lauder
Bespoke embroidered napkins for Love Shack
Art Fairs with Envie d'art Gallery
Artist in Residence, De Montfort University, UK

2017
Fashion pieces for Jasper Conran
Art Fairs : Affordable Art Fair London, Hong Kong; Context Art New York
Exhibited with Envie d'art, Paris
Exhibited with K+Y, Paris

2016
Fashion pieces for Alexander McQueen and Jasper Conran
World map large scale art commission, Black Rock investment bank, Hong Kong
Europe map large scale art commission, Black Rock investment bank , Paris
Interior works for Katherine Pooley
Solo Show Cricket Fine Art, 'Couture Creatures', London
Exhibited with Wit Gallery, Massachusetts
Exhibited with Ruthin Gallery, Wales

2015
Bull Market and Bear Market art commission, Black Rock investment bank, Copenhagen
Art Pieces for Lidewij Edelkoort Fetishism show, Trapholt museum, Denmark

2014
Solo Show Rebecca Hossack gallery, 'The Edge of the Woods', New York
Royal Academy summer show, London
Art Fairs : Melbourne, Hamptons, New york, London

2013
Art pieces for Lidewij Edelkoort Fashion Fetishism Biennale, Holland
Solo show ?Singerie? Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery, London
Lapada Art and Antiques Fair, London
Art Fairs : Melbourne, Hong Kong, Paris

2012
Solo show, Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery, New York
Solo show, Marylebone Hotel, London
Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery, New York
Book launch and exhibition at Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London
Lapada Art and Antiques Fair, London
Decorex International, London
Art Fairs : London, Melbourne, Hamptons

2011
Exhibition "Lovelace", Power House Museum, Sydney
Grayson Perry doll with Liberty London
Art Fairs : London Art Fair, Affordable Art Fair London, Affordable Art Fair New York, Affordable Art Fair Singapore, Art London, Art Melbourne, Art Toronto.

2010
Solo Show of animals and handbags ?Conversation Pieces?, Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery, London
Art Fairt : Sydney Art Fair, Art London
Exhibitions Jerwood Contemporary Makers, London, Edinburg and Dublin
Liberty Shop Window

2008
Triptych for Leeds Cancer Hospital
Form Art Fair, London

2007

Art piece for Shell UK, featured in oceanography exhibition in Santa Fe

2007 -2010
Anthropologie, New York

2005
Solo Show, Karen Nicol skirt range, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London
Solo Show, Karen Nicol skirt range Mantero concept store, La Tessitura, Como, Italy
Exhibition with Markus Lupfer, Japan
Art Vitam Gallery, Miami

2004
Art Fairs : Palm Beach, Sofa Chicago